BREAD for the POOR:

OR,

OBSERVATIONS

Upon certain

PROPOSALS

Lately offered

To the Kings Majesty and both Houses of PARLIAMENT.

With some additional Considerations tending to inriching of the Nation, and Encrease of most necessary Manufactories among us.

WHEREBY

All Poor people (Women and Children from five years old) may be comfortably Employ'd to get their own Livings; Beggars and Vagrants Reform'd, the Parish-Charges for the Poor Lightned, and consequently your Lands improved, Rents raised, and yet both Farmers and Tradesmen Encouraged: And many Hundred thousand pounds a year kept at home, which now goes out of the Kingdom for Forein and Exotique Commodities.

By *Philo-Anglicus*.

With Alterations.

London, Printed for D. M. 1678.

Bread for the Poor: Or, Observations upon certain *PROPOSALS* lately offered to the King and both Houses of Parliament.

THE Labours of the Poor, are the Mines of the Rich; Manufactories and Commerce, the Springs of Wealth to every Nation, whence flow Power at home, and (the effect of that) Reputation abroad; so that no doubt that Prince or Nation that can gain and keep the *Trade of the World*, will in short time bid fair to be in effect, *Master of the World*.

This the *FRENCH* have not only understood, but vigorously endeavour'd, As if they aim'd to be little less formidable for their subtlety in Traffique, than by the power of their Arms. For how considerably have they advanc'd their Trade, and promoted their own Manufactories? Still no less industriously beating down and supplanting those of their Neighbours; particularly of *England*, as (amongst others) for Instance, our *WOOLLEN-CLOTH*,

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on which they have laid such *heavy Impositions*, as almost quite discouraged the exporting any thither; Yet in the mean time bringing over vast quantities of their prohibited Trifles, with *the same boats* at their return jilting away our Wool (*one* Pack of which puts *three* of theirs into Cloth, which otherwise were unserviceable;) and also invite over our workmen, undersel us at Market, and use a thousand Artifices to Ruine that Trade, which once was the Glory of our Nation, and made us renowned through the World.

These things are too apparent not to be taken notice of, too dangerous not to be obviated. To which purpose what remains, but that we Countermine their policies, and strive to improve to the utmost the Manufactories of those materials which our Kingdom does, or might plentifully yield; And as much discourage theirs, of which our people have hitherto been too fond?

In order to this, we cannot but observe and applaud a very profitable *PROPOSAL* lately made by one Mr. *Richard Hains*, a person though to us unknown further than by his worthy Labours, and that we are informed he is a *Sussex-Gentleman*, Yet certainly his Zeal for promoting things tending to publick Good, and his Industrious Genius in the happy discovery of them, no less than the pains he takes to divulge them, that being reduced by Authority into Practice, they may accomplish the good ends desired, deserves both publick notice and thanks. Wherefore, though he has lately printed the same, yet the Book not being so generally dispers'd

as might be wisht, we shall presume to recite some parts of it here: For, *Omne Bonum quo Communius eo Melius.*

This Author considering the heavie Pressures most Parishes lie under to maintain their Poor, who daily increase; the decay of our Woollen Cloathing Trade, and the vast Charge we are yearly at for Linnen, Cordage, *&c.* from other Nations, whereby our Treasure is exhausted, and our Lands fall for want of being improved some other way, besides the common ones, of sowing of Corn, breeding for Wool, *&c.*

For Remedy, does propose,

That there may be erected in every County of England, *according to its Extent or Populousness, a greater or lesser Work house* or *Working Alms-house*, as he properly enough calls it; for so in the end and designe of the Erection it is; (Work for Money being a better piece of Alms to those that are able to do it, than Money or Victuals without Work to lazie Vagrants;) *In which houses the Poor may be continually employed under Sober and Religious Government in the Manufactory of Linnen Cloath.* Whereby he demonstrates by a modest Calculation, that above thirteen hundred thousand pounds worth of Linnen Cloath may yearly be spun in those houses, besides what is done in private Families: Whence a triple benefit would arise.

1. Those vast Sums now yearly sent out of the Nation for Linnen Cloath, *&c.* (which computed by very Intelligent persons, has of late cost us more than a Million *per Annum*) may be saved.

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2. It will be an Employment for the weakeſt people, not capable of ſtronger labour, *viz.* Women, Children, and Aged, now the moſt chargeable; and ſet to work thoſe hands which for the moſt part now are idle; it being ſuppoſed there are at leaſt 100000 Beggars or others that want a lawful Employment, who hereby will not onely be removed from being chargeable, but on the contrarie, kept in good order, may become ſerviceable to the Publick.

3. Much Land throughout *England* will be greatly improved by ſowing Hemp and Flax; one of which may be plentifully produced in every Countie of this Kingdom, to the great advantage of Farmers, and conſequently of Landlords.

To facilitate this Work, he has invented an Engine whereby one man may turn fifty Spinning-wheels, which ſhall ſerve a hundred perſons to ſpin with at once: ſo that they ſhall have nothing to do but employ both hands to draw Tire from the Diſtaff, and ſo earn nine pence a day as eaſily as now they can ſix pence, as is there evidently demonſtrated.

The Objections that may be made either to the Advantages propoſed, or the Method, he has largely and plainly ſolved; ſo that I do not perceive any thing that with any colour of reaſon can be ſtarted againſt it, but he has ſoundly and ſubſtantially anſwered.

The Title of his Book is, *Propoſals for building Working-Alms-houſes, as the beſt Expedient to perfect the Trade and Manufactory of Linnen Cloath in* England. *To be ſold by* R. Harford, *at the Angel in* Cornhill. A Piece which I cannot but ſeriouſly recommend

recommend to the reading and consideration of every good Patriot and true English-man.

'Tis certain, when in any Nation Commodities are Imported to a greater value than what are Exported, Impoverishment seems unavoidable: For then our ready Money must go out to even the Ballance; whence it appears, A Kingdom may be in as much danger by *a great Trade ill managed*, as by too little. It seems therefore Proposable, That special Care be taken to improve Commodities of our own growth and manufacture, and restrain the bringing in of Superfluities and Unnecessaries. Hence 'tis considerable, whether the prohibiting of that mightie Glut of *French Wine* may not be advisable, and the promoting of Cider or other English Liquors (altogether as pleasant, and probably much more wholsome, because more agreeable to English bodies) in its stead. The Decrease of his Majesties Customs may easily be supplied by the *great wisdom* of the Nation another way.

Furthermore, since the first Riches of any Nation is the multitude of its Inhabitants, and that we are like to have great occasion for People, as well to be employ'd in profitable Manufactories at home, as *necessary Defence* abroad; 'tis sad to consider how many *Thousands* of his Majesties Subjects are yearly ruined by unjust Vexations and trivial Suits; their bodies *buried alive* in Prisons, and their Families reduced to a *Parish-charge*. This within the Liberties of *London* is in a good measure avoided, by that excellent Court established by King *James P. M.* deservedly call'd *The Court of Conscience*. Judicatures

of

of like nature ('tis conceived) might be as commodiously erected in the Suburbs of that Citie, and other grand Corporations, where they are more necessary, by reason of a greater confluence there of People *mean* and *Indigent*; the common *Prey* of Brokers, Tallymen, Bum-bayliffs, &c.

Indeed the whole business of Arrests and Imprisonment (at least by *Capias* before Judgment) deserves Consideration, if not Regulation. 'Tis certain, *From the beginning it was not so:* Nor shall I dispute what our Ancestors did to make *Trusting fools* wise, or *Ticking knaves* honest. However, the present Course seems a little incongruous,

1. In *Nature*, consequently in Law; nothing being destrainable but what can satisfie, which must be an Estate either in *Land* or *Goods:* For a mans body is neither Saleable (with us) nor Eatable.

2. In *Discretion*; the Creditor hereby disabling the Debtor, renders his Debt more desperate.

3. In *reason of State*; depriving the Soveraign of his Subjects, whose bodies thus immur'd might otherwise be serviceable in Peace or War.

4. In *Justice* and Conscience; that a man should be debarr'd of his Liberty (the greatest Enjoyment Temporal) meerly on a Suggestion, before it be judicially proved that he is either a Debtor or Trespasser: Experience witnessing, That scarce one Arrest in ten, but is either wholly causless, or for spleen, revenge, or some inconsiderable trifle.

Lastly, In *Commerce*; Spendthrifts are allur'd to Rookings, and the trusting Dealer is but *smother'd in his own Feathers:* For, to pack off his Wares at

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any Rate, he readily *hooks* the Cheat) Cellars beyond the reach of his Purse; And if his Fortune be short, curses his Confidence; and to take out his revenge takes forth a *Capias* for his *Carcass*; which proves but throwing good money after bad: For the one *Crawls* out, *Twenty reasons allowed*, the other, by excessive Feasting and Debauchery commonly incident to *Goals*, is dead, (It is both a pity and a shame, *honest men*, meerly because *poor*, should be kept a *starving* in Prisons, and for *rich Knaves*, they do not regard them.

'Tis a good Maxime, *No man ought to be wiser than the Law*; yet 'tis hoped, what tends to Publick Advantage, may with modesty and due submission be offered to Consideration; And this with that becoming deference these few Hints are tendred to that Great Authority, which has Power (if thought meet) to make such variations as shall be necessary; whose Consultations may the *Everlasting Counseller* bless with Unanimity and Success, for the Good of his Church, and Prosperity of this Nation.

FINIS.